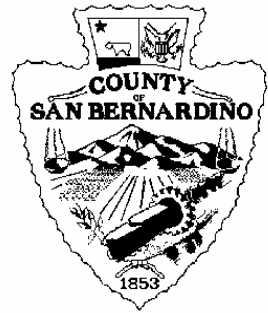


NEWS

From Bill Postmus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2002

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Mitsubishi Cement, Specialty Minerals, Omya provide “cornerstone” match for Postmus grant to expand Lucerne Valley Branch Library

LUCERNE VALLEY – The Lucerne Valley Library expansion project will come to life Friday with a “cornerstone” donation of \$65,000 by three of the major local mining companies. The presentation will be held at the Lucerne Valley Branch Library located at 33103 Old Woman Springs Road.

In the 10 a.m. ceremony Friday morning, local families representing each company will present an inscribed slab of white limestone to represent a “cornerstone” for the library expansion project. It will be presented to San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus, Friends of the Library President Janice Horst, and County Librarian Ed Kieczykowski. Postmus pledged last month to match five dollars for every dollar the Friends of the Library could raise up to a maximum of \$175,000 for the project.

The \$65,000 donation exceeds the “matching” funds needed to activate the \$175,000 grant made available through Supervisor Postmus. That \$240,000 plus \$15,000 already reported as raised by the Friends of the Library, is a significant step in reaching the projected \$288,000 construction cost. Postmus is expected to announce the hiring of an architect to design the project and to present a timeline on completion of the expansion.

The joint industry contribution was spearheaded by Mitsubishi Cement’s Cushenbury plant. Vice President/plant manager Bud Biggs said Mitsubishi decided to donate \$25,000 toward the library project

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and to encourage Specialty Minerals and Omya to join in the effort. Specialty matched Mitsubishi's \$25,000 donation and Omya contributed \$15,000.

"This is a great community and the library is a centerpiece of the community," Biggs said. "We believed it was a good project for a significant involvement from Mitsubishi and the other companies – especially because it already has generated such good support from members of the community."

"We appreciate being part of the Lucerne Valley area," Specialty's Plant Manager Doug Mayger agreed. "We're glad to provide the funds to make the library expansion a reality, and really hope the many individuals who are planning to contribute will add to what we have donated to increase the value of the expansion."

Manfred Kiel, Omya's plant manager, said his company similarly has been impressed with the community spirit shown in the library project. "It's really an honor to be part of something that has reached every person and every family in Lucerne Valley," he said.

Biggs said Mitsubishi was prompted to contribute to the project as costs escalated in order to provide a structure that would meet many needs for Lucerne Valley including meeting room, offices and storage, as well as an expanded children's area. "It's very exciting to be able to have a major role in making such a great facility come to life – especially when it's so needed," Biggs said. "A library really is the heart of a community." He credited the leadership of Janice Horst and her "unwavering commitment to her goals" for encouraging Mitsubishi's donation.

Postmus congratulated the Friends of the Library on their fund-raising efforts. "These volunteers are the backbone of this most important community effort," Postmus said. "I also want to thank those good corporate citizens of Lucerne Valley who have generously supported this effort."

The inscription on the cornerstone reads: "In appreciation of our host community, we provide this 'cornerstone' donation for the Lucerne Valley Library expansion," and carries the names of the three companies. Biggs explained the "cornerstone" concept is intended to provide both a visual representation of the gift of the mining companies and to encourage continued support from the community.